

memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amanda Williams
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Olympia-Grand Coulee Structure 85/5 Relocation Project

Budget Information: Work Order #00291628

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1984

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3, Routine maintenance

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: The proposed Olympia-Grand Coulee Structure 85/5 Relocation Project is located in King County, Washington, within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS), in BPA's Covington Operations and Maintenance District. Township, Range, and Section crossed by the proposed project are listed below:

Township		Range		Section
20	N	11	E	2

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to relocate structure 85/5 along the Olympia-Grand Coulee 287-kV transmission line. The existing structure 85/5 is at eminent risk of failure from undercutting and bank sloughing from Sunday Creek, which is situated below the tower. BPA needs to move structure 85/5 approximately 30 feet Back on Line/west of its current location in order to fulfill our obligation to ensure the transmission system's reliability and provide safe operation under all conditions including peak demand and weather. The work would be conducted during a scheduled maintenance outage. Work would include grading and rocking of the existing access road, installing temporary bridges over two existing fords, grading an approximately 3000 square feet (sq ft) area next to the new tower location to create a crane landing, and excavation of approximately 1600 sq ft area for four new footings. The existing tower would be dismantled and erected on the new footings and the existing footings would be cut below ground level and remain in place. Heavy equipment used on the proposed project may include, but is not limited to a mower, grader, excavator, crane, and dump truck.

Public Scoping: As part of the environmental review process for projects occurring in the MBS, BPA sent out an informational letter describing the project to a list of interested parties obtained from MBS on June 14, 2012. On the same date the letter was also sent to local Native American Tribes initiating government to government consultation. Comments were accepted through July 13, 2012. All comments are considered part of the project record and are posted for public review at www.bpa.gov/comment. No comments pertaining to this project were received from the public or the Tribes.

Botanical Surveys: As part of the environmental review process for projects occurring in the MBS, the project was surveyed by qualified botanists at the proper time of year and no species on the 2011 R6 Sensitive Species list, or Survey and Managed plant species under the 2011 settlement agreement were found. The project is therefore unlikely to pose any risk to the species the above mentioned lists.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Laura Roberts
Laura Roberts
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 19, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Olympia-Grand Coulee Structure 85/5 Relocation Project

Work Order #: 00 291628 PP&A Project No.: PP&A-1984

Prepared by: Laura Roberts Routing: KEP-4 Date: 6/26/2012

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources No adverse effect to cultural resources – SHPO Concurrence 7/10/2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Inadvertent Discovery Plan</u> If the project detects any of the following cultural resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American cultural artifacts – flakes, arrowheads, stone tools, bone tools, pottery, etc. • Historic era artifacts – building foundations, homesteads, shipwrecks, mining camps, etc. • Human skeletal remains and bone fragments <p>You must immediately discontinue all ground-disturbing activity. Do not touch or move the objects and maintain the confidentiality of the site.</p> <p><i>Follow the procedures supplied in the inadvertent discovery plan and await further direction from BPA's Cultural Resources Staff.</i></p>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No Effects Determination for ESA listed species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Existing Ford Crossings: Temporary bridges would be installed outside the Ordinary High Water Mark and within the existing road bed. One ecology block may be placed if necessary as center brace for temporary bridges and would be removed at the same time as temporary bridges. If necessary, a single crossing of the ford with rubber tired equipment would be allowed to assist in placing ecology block. No rock would be placed in the creek during installation and removal of temporary bridges. Ford sites would be recontoured and returned to a similar condition that existed prior to temporary bridge or steel plate installation.</p> <p>General: Disturbed ground surfaces would be protected from erosion by a combination of mulching with weed free mulch (straw or woodstraw), seeded and vegetated with native species as approved by MBS botanist.</p> <p>Waste materials associated with the project shall be disposed of outside of the riparian reserve as approved by FS representative and trash removed from site to an appropriate disposal area.</p> <p>All machinery maintenance involving potential contaminants such as fuel, oil, and hydraulic fluid would</p>		

be done at least 100 feet from stream channels, water bodies, and wetlands.

Machinery would be made available for inspection by the MBS for leaks

Hazardous spill plan would be established and spill prevention kits shall be available on-site during use of heavy machinery and commensurate with the type of equipment present.

Existing streamside vegetation would be disturbed only when absolutely necessary.

4. Areas of special designation

5. Health & safety

6. Prime agricultural lands

7. Special sources of water

8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations

9. Pollution control at Federal facilities

10. Other

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

To minimize potential impacts to resident fish and the existing stream bed, BPA proposes to install temporary bridges across the fords to allow for safe movement of heavy equipment and protect and stabilize the crossings during construction. All equipment used on the project would be proper working condition, well maintained, and inspected for leaks. Temporary bridges only remain in place during the work periods from approximately July 15th through August 31st.

WEED CONTROL:

Construction equipment cleaning: All track-driven equipment, all earthmoving equipment of any kind, and all other heavy equipment typically employed for road construction will be thoroughly pressure washed for dirt and weed seeds before being allowed access to the construction sites. Machinery will be made available for inspection by the MBS prior to commencement of work to ensure machinery is clean and free of dirt and debris.

Three species of noxious weeds that were documented (Scotch broom, Canada thistle, and herb Robert) within the project area will be treated prior to initiating ground disturbing activities. Standard Mitigation and Management Measures provided by MBS will be followed.

SOILS MANAGEMENT:

Erosion control best management practices (BMPs) utilized on this project are to be consistent with the Washington State Department of Ecology, Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, February 2005, Volume II Chapter 4. Publication 05-10-30.

Use certified weed free straw, if straw is used for on the project

Dust control:

Utilize water for dust control. Water truck(s) in sufficient number to adequately control dust should be available should the need arise.

1. Limit the amount of soil exposed by grading at any given time,
2. Stabilize recently bladed or constructed roads with aggregate,
3. Soil that is to be stored for reuse as backfill, restoration, or for disposal is to be managed in order to prevent erosion by wind or water. This requirement applies to all soils on site, whether at final grade or not.

Restoration seeding:

Stabilize and seed any exposed areas using seed mix approved by **Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts

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